

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is made in response to applicant's amendment filed on 7/18/08. Claims 125-133, 161, 162, 164-166, 170, 172, 173, 175, 176, 197-200, 211, and 257-259 are currently pending in the application. An action follows below:

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The foreign references and non-patent literature references listed on the IDS (originally filed on 9/12/2003) have been considered by the Examiner. An initialed and updated copy of the final page of the IDS is included with this action.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 125-133, 161, 162, 164-166, 170, 172, 173, 175, 176, 197-200, 211, and 257-259 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a touch input system using a receiving stylus. Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct features steps of operation including applying a zero voltage to the voltage divider, applying a gradient voltage to the voltage divider and applying a constant voltage to the voltage divider. The closest prior art, Kable (USPN: 4678869) and Proctor et al. (USPN: 3304612) disclose arrangements of voltage dividers and finger protrusions to produce a voltage gradient area between the fingers, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven E. Holton whose telephone number is (571)272-7903. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Steven E. Holton

Division 2629

January 15, 2009

/Bipin Shalwala/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629